

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 12, 2006**

## **Tail docking information session to be held in Douglas**

Wyoming sheep owners, veterinarians and the public have the opportunity to attend a demonstration regarding the new tail docking guidelines at the Wyoming State Fairgrounds.

The information session will be held Wednesday, January 18 at 10 a.m. in the new show pavilion at the Wyoming State Fairgrounds in Douglas. The Wyoming State Veterinarian, Dr. Dwayne Oldham, and other officials will be on hand to discuss the new guidelines. There will also be a demonstration of how these lambs will be evaluated with x-rays. This demonstration will highlight where the necessary coccygeal (tail) vertebrae are located and how short sheep owners may dock the tails.

The four groups that worked together to create the new guidelines are the Wyoming Club Lamb Association, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Wyoming State Fair including the Wyoming State Fair Advisory Board, and Wyoming Wool Growers Association. These guidelines were approved during a Wyoming State Fair Advisory Committee meeting last September.

The guidelines state: "Every sheep that shows at the Wyoming State Fair must be accompanied by a certificate signed by a licensed Wyoming veterinarian who has a doctor-client relationship with the owner of the animal and who attests to the fact that the animal has, at a minimum, three coccygeal (tail) vertebrae." If there is a protest of a lamb during the fair, a local veterinarian chosen by the Wyoming State Fair office will x-ray the lamb to determine the number of coccygeal (tail) vertebrae. The complete tail docking policy is available at both the Wyoming Department of Agriculture and the Wyoming State Fair offices.

This meeting is hosted by the Wyoming Livestock Board. It is free and open to the public. For more information please contact the Wyoming State Fair management at (307) 358-2398.

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